

# 2012 Statewide Accessibility Awards Program

## Submission Guidelines



*Presented by the APA – Accessibility Professionals Association (formerly TRASA - Texas Registered Accessibility Specialists Association) in partnership with the Texas Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities*

### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE – Due by Friday – 28 September 2012**

The Annual Accessibility Awards Program recognizes outstanding commercial design and construction projects that are subject to the application of the Texas Accessibility Standards (T.A.S.), as monitored by a Registered Accessibility Specialist (RAS) who is a member in good standing of the Accessibility Professionals Association. The Program recognizes businesses, property owners, and / or organizations that go **above and beyond** the minimum legal accessibility requirements and which have considered service accessibility (e.g. – menus in Braille at a restaurant; wheelchair friendly seating at venues; staff trained in disability etiquette and **People First** language, etc.) as well as physical accessibility.

★ **The Statewide awards ceremony will take place in late January, 2013, during the APA Annual Convention in Austin, Texas.**

### **AWARD CATEGORIES MAY INCLUDE:**

- A Public Accommodation - A new or renovated building or facility used by the public that uses funds from the state or a county, municipality or other political subdivision of the state;
- A Public Accommodation - A new or renovated leasedspace within a building or facility that is leased, in whole or in part, by the state under a lease or rental agreement;
- A Private building or facility constructed, renovated or modified that is subject to the TAS as follows:
  - An inn, hotel, motel, or other place of lodging;
  - A restaurant, bar, or other establishment serving food or drinks;
  - A motion picture house, theater, concert hall, stadium or other place of exhibition or entertainment;
  - An auditorium, convention center, lecture hall, or other place of public gathering;
  - A bakery, grocery store, clothing store, hardware store, shopping center, or other sales or rental establishment;
  - A laundromat, dry-cleaner, bank, barber shop, beauty shop, travel service, shoe repair service, funeral parlor, gas station, office of an accountant or lawyer, pharmacy, insurance office, professional office of a healthcare provider, hospital, or other service establishment;
  - A terminal, depot, or other station used for specified public transportation;
  - A park, zoo, amusement park, or other place of recreation;
  - A museum, library, gallery, or other place of public display or collection;
  - A nursery, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, or postgraduate private school, or other place of education;

- A day-care center, senior citizen center, homeless shelter, food bank, adoption agency, or other social service center establishment;
- Or a gymnasium, health spa, bowling alley, golf course, or other place of exercise or recreation.
- A new building, or a “first-time” interior finishout of a Commercial / intended for non-residential use and operations project that affects commerce;
- New or renovated buildings or facilities of a religious organization that are subject to the TAS (except “specific areas of religious ritual” that are exempt if the church body goes on record requesting such an exemption).

## **APPLICABLE PROJECTS:**

Accessibility Awards will be considered **for projects completed and inspected by the nomination date deadline and located within the State of Texas.** A project can be either self-nominated by the property owner, or by an APA Member RAS, or by any another individual or group, such as an organization, a tenant, a building contractor, or a design professional (architect, interior designer, professional engineer and / or a landscape architect), that has used an APA member for the required State of Texas Accessibility Plan Review and Inspection services.

## **NOMINATION GUIDELINES:**

Nominations must be submitted using the APA Nomination Form. The Form should include a **project summary and photographs**. If nominating more than one project, please submit each entry separately.

### **Please ensure that the following information is included in the “electronic” submission:**

- All materials must be clearly identified with the name/address of the nominated project.
- Appropriate credit must be given to project participants.
- Photographs: Submit at least ten but no more than twenty photos of the project. Electronic digital photos (JPEG preferred) will be accepted. Please include both exterior and interior photos (if applicable), focusing on the outstanding accessibility elements and services that make the property user-friendly. Please also include a photo credit line for publication (if applicable). “Before” and “after” photos of a renovated project are strongly encouraged. All images should be in focus with proper exposure.
- All electronic photographic materials must be submitted by delivery of CD or flash-drive because of the need to have quality photos appropriate for a PowerPoint Presentation during the APA Annual Meeting.

## **SUBMISSION:**

Please submit your nomination to Fred Cawyer at 3819 Towne Crossing Blvd., Suite 111 / Mesquite, TX 75150 or via e-mail at [fredcawyer@aol.com](mailto:fredcawyer@aol.com), OR physically mail the required information on a CD or flash-drive to APA, Attention: Shirley Knox, 3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 301B / Austin, TX 78746.

**Submissions must be received or postmarked by Friday – 28 September 2012.**

**The \$50 Entry Fee per submittal** must be paid by check / money order made out to APA – Accessibility Professionals Association and mailed / hand-delivered to APA Office in Austin, Texas. All submissions become the property of APA and will not be returned. The nominator grants permission for materials to be used by APA and the Governor’s Committee on People with Disabilities for presentation and publicity purposes.

**★ Only complete applications submitted will be considered**

## **SELECTION PROCESS:**

Entries will be judged by two (2) or more APA member Registered Accessibility Specialists, as well as other accessibility subject matter experts recommended by the Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities. An actual site visit will be made to the shortlisted sites / buildings / facilities nominated by an APA member RAS and by at least one subject matter expert with a disability, each of whom will have specific knowledge of the project, to check for both physical and service accessibility.

Nominations will be evaluated based on the applicable Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) at the time the project was permitted (i.e. – the 1994 TAS prior to 03.15.2012, or the 2012 TAS after 03.15.2012). Please visit [www.license.state.tx.us](http://www.license.state.tx.us) for additional State of Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation – Architectural Division accessibility compliance details. Award nominees and winners will be notified prior to the public announcement of the awards.

## **GOAL:**

**“To honor projects which implement universal design principles and service accessibility, and which go beyond the minimum legal definition of accessibility.”**

**PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORMS (and electronic CD / Flash-drive documentation) POSTMARKED OR RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE TO EITHER:**

**Ms. Shirley Knox – Executive Director**

**APA – Accessibility Professionals Association (*Formerly TRASA*)**

**3355 Bee Cave Road, Suite 301B**

**Austin, TX 78746**

**Website - [www.AccessibilityProfessionals.org](http://www.AccessibilityProfessionals.org)**

**Or, to:**

**Fred D. Cawyer RAS – Chairman APA/GCPD Awards Program**

**3819 Towne Crossing Blvd., Suite 111**

**Mesquite, TX 75150**

**Office – 972.285.2445**

**Fax – 972.285.8714**

**Email - [fredcawyer@aol.com](mailto:fredcawyer@aol.com)**